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# RIVERSIDE LAWYER

MAGAZINE

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# MISSION STATEMENT

## Established in 1894

The Riverside County Bar Association, established in 1894 to foster social interaction between the bench and bar, is a professional organization that provides continuing education and offers an arena to resolve various problems that face the justice system and attorneys practicing in Riverside County.

## RCBA Mission Statement

The mission of the Riverside County Bar Association is:  
To serve our members, our communities, and our legal system.

## Membership Benefits

Involvement in a variety of legal entities: Lawyer Referral Service (LRS), Public Service Law Corporation (PSLC), Fee Arbitration, Client Relations, Dispute Resolution Service (DRS), Barristers, Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court, Inland Empire Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Mock Trial, State Bar Conference of Delegates, and Bridging the Gap.

Membership meetings monthly (except July and August) with keynote speakers, and participation in the many committees and sections.

Eleven issues of *Riverside Lawyer* published each year to update you on State Bar matters, ABA issues, local court rules, open forum for communication and timely business matters.

Social gatherings throughout the year: Installation of RCBA and Barristers Officers dinner, Annual Joint Barristers and Riverside Legal Secretaries dinner, Law Day activities, Good Citizenship Award ceremony for Riverside County high schools, and other special activities.

Continuing Legal Education brown bag lunches and section workshops. RCBA is a certified provider for MCLE programs.

MBNA Platinum Plus MasterCard, and optional insurance programs.

Discounted personal disability income and business overhead protection for the attorney and long-term care coverage for the attorney and his or her family.

*The Riverside Lawyer is published 11 times per year by the Riverside County Bar Association (RCBA) and is distributed to RCBA members, Riverside County judges and administrative officers of the court, community leaders and others interested in the advancement of law and justice. Advertising and announcements are due by the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding publications (e.g., October 6 for the November issue). Articles are due no later than 45 days preceding publication. All articles are subject to editing. RCBA members receive a subscription automatically. Annual subscriptions are \$25.00 and single copies are \$3.50.*

*Submission of articles and photographs to Riverside Lawyer will be deemed to be authorization and license by the author to publish the material in the Riverside Lawyer.*

*The material printed in the Riverside Lawyer does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the RCBA, the editorial staff, the Publication Committee, or other columnists. Legal issues are not discussed for the purpose of answering specific questions. Independent research of all issues is strongly encouraged.*

# CALENDAR

## November

- 10 CLE Event**  
Noon – RCBA Gabbert Gallery  
“Warrants: How to Successfully Obtain Inspection Warrants or Seizure Warrants in Code Enforcement Cases”  
Speakers: Judge John Vineyard and Daniel Wolfe, Riverside Superior Court  
RCBA Members – Free Non-Members - \$25  
RSVP to rcba@riversidecountybar.com
- 11 Veterans Day – RCBA Office Closed**
- 12 Immigration Law Section**  
Noon – RCBA Gabbert Gallery  
Topic – “Immigration Year in Review”  
Speaker – Kelly O’Reilly, Esq.  
MCLE
- 13 General Membership Meeting**  
Noon – RCBA Gabbert Gallery  
Topic – “Veteran’s Court – A Collaborative Process”  
Speakers – Judge Mark Johnson, Riverside Superior Court  
Deputy Public Defender Brian Cosgrove, Deputy District Attorney Alberto Recalde  
MCLE  
RSVP to rcba@riversidecountybar.com  
RCBA Members - \$20 Non-Members - \$40
- 17 Family Law Section**  
Noon – 1:15 p.m.  
RCBA - Gabbert Gallery  
Topic: “Ethics in Family Law: Where is the Line?”  
Speakers: Erik Bradford, William Bratten & Robert McCarty, Jr.  
MCLE
- 26 & 27 Thanksgiving Holiday – RCBA Office Closed**

## December

- 3 New Admittee Swearing In Ceremony**  
10:00 a.m. – Riverside Superior Court, Dept. 1
- General Membership Meeting**  
Joint Meeting with the SBCBA  
Noon – Court of Appeal, 3389 12th Street, Riverside  
Speaker – State Bar President David Pasternak  
Seating is limited. Please contact the RCBA at 951.682.1015 or rcba@riversidecountybar.com to RSVP.



### On the cover:

Mission Inn Festival of Lights lighting ceremony.

photo by Michael J. Elderman



by *Kira L. Klatchko*

Almost every past RCBA president I have spoken with has told me that they loved their time in office, with the exception of writing the monthly president's column. Some said they did not like to write, as a general matter. Others said they had difficulty coming up with a topic. And even more wondered if anyone was even reading what they spent long hours drafting. As a result, most of the president's columns read like a bulletin board for bar activities. Almost all are consciously anodyne. The few exceptions are notable. One notable exception was a column written by Riverside County Public Defender Steve Harmon during his tenure as RCBA president.

If you attended the RCBA installation dinner this year, you heard Virginia Blumenthal read the column in its entirety when she, herself a recipient of the prestigious Krieger award, presented Steve with the E. Aurora Hughes award for meritorious service to the RCBA. The column was about why Steve was glad that he had cancer. In his column, Steve described in frank detail what was probably the lowest moment in his life. He described his suffering and anguish, and he admitted to fear for himself and his family. He admitted to anger and self-pity. He admitted he was so miserable he wanted to die. None of these emotions are easy to confront, but to confront them and discuss the struggle to do so with your friends, colleagues, and your entire professional community is beyond difficult to do. It would be difficult for anyone, but particularly for a lawyer. We are supposed to be in control, to shield our clients from harm; we are supposed to be impervious. But we are not. We know this about ourselves, but we are loath to admit it.

This month, the *Riverside Lawyer* focuses on giving thanks. I want to give thanks to Steve for writing about his own personal nightmare with such amazing dignity, grace, and eloquence. I want to thank him for reliving that horrible experience and sharing for our benefit details he would probably rather forget. I thank him for the excellent reminder that we all have very much to be thankful for in our lives. I also thank him for sharing, not only his story, but also what he learned from his experience. In his lowest moment, Steve had an epiphany. He saw a young child in the cancer ward who was also suffering, but somehow managed to find a moment of joy. That moment and the smile it produced, had a deep and lasting impact on Steve; it energized him and made him want to smile, and fight, and get better. I thank Steve for reminding us of what we all instinctively know, but often forget—that one seemingly mundane moment for one person can actually be a life-saver for another.

To Steve and the many other members of this Bar who have shared similar stories, including Aurora Hughes who suffered acutely with ALS while serving as president of the RCBA, thank you for sharing your stories and lives with us. In your honor, we reprint in its entirety Steve's column from the June 1996 edition of *Riverside Lawyer*. (See page 4).

*Kira L. Klatchko is a certified appellate law specialist, vice chair of the appellate group at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, where she is a partner, and co-contributing editor of Matthew Bender Practice Guide: California Civil Appeals and Writs.*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JUNE 1996

*by Steve Harmon*

Let me tell you why I'm glad I had cancer.

About five years ago I was diagnosed with large cell lymphoma, non-Hodgkin type. I couldn't believe it when the doctor sat my wife and me down and started talking in hushed tones about "malignancy," "cancer," "chemotherapy," and "the odds." I couldn't believe it – I was just 42 years old, didn't smoke or drink, and was in good shape playing racquetball three times a week. My law practice was going well, my son was in private boarding school and loved it, and life was good. It couldn't be cancer. Not me. Not now. Not ever.

But, it was true. I did have cancer and in two days I had to begin a rigorous chemotherapy program followed by weeks of radiation. I was barely able to keep myself from fainting as the doctor began warning us of what the chemotherapy would do to my body: I would lose all my hair within three weeks; I would have sores in my mouth so severe I would not be able to eat; I would be violently ill following each treatment; I would have absolutely no appetite for anything; I would be lucky to lose only thirty pounds; my immune system would be almost entirely stripped away; I would be constantly in and out of the hospital; I would linger near death for weeks and sometimes welcome it. And after all that, there were no guarantees whatsoever it would work.

As I sat in that hospital room that day I thought I had been forsaken by God and my life was over. I was being robbed of everything I had worked so hard to achieve. My career, my family, and my life were about to be destroyed.

Well, everything the doctor promised me came true – and more. My battle with cancer was absolutely and unbelievably horrible. I cannot even attempt to describe the difficulties and anguish the disease and the cure brought me and everyone around me.

But, now let me tell you why I'm glad I had cancer.

I am now a survivor. I've come through hell and there's not a lot left any more that's going to shock me or get me down. How could there be? I've stood on the edge and looked down. I've seen what's down there. I'm now a member of a select group of people who have won. I'm special. I've been tested and I'm still here to tell about it. I have a strength I never came close to having before. To know I survived has given to me a power few will ever experience. So, I'm going to use this power – and I do.



*Steve Harmon*

Whenever I face a tough challenge, such as a closing argument in a difficult case, or speaking to a large group, or difficult business problems, or painful personal problems I immediately go back to my cancer and draw upon it for the strength I need to get through my problem. I say over and over to myself: if you can get through cancer you can certainly get through this problem. I remember those long nights in the hospital during chemotherapy and I ask myself which is easier – that or this? It's amazing how everything pales in comparison to cancer. Perspective is gained and strength follows. My cancer had become my greatest source of strength.

So out of disaster and despair can come strength and good. I'm proof that the struggle is worth it. Great quality of life awaits us beyond, no matter what disasters we may face. Mine was cancer. It could have been alcohol, drugs, a number of other addictions, divorce, business collapse, death of a loved one. But whatever it is that takes us to the edge and makes us look down, can also be a source of strength. If you get through this, you can get through anything.

I'm also glad I had cancer because it taught me that I had really not understood what was truly important in my life. I think I had gotten things backward. Before my illness my practice had become the focal point of my life. My family and friends had been relegated to a supporting role to my practice. However, I can tell you that when you are told you have cancer your first instinct is not to reach out to your calendar or case file or law book or a client. Your first grasp is your wife, your children, your mother and father, and your friends. I learned they were what is important in my life. Even though we are professionals and owe the highest duty of service to our clients, we must never forget that our practices are only our way of sustaining our families. It is our way of carving out the best life we can for them. Our practices are the vehicles for providing our loved ones with the best possible life. It is truly important to serve our clients well and to be of service to our communities, but that is a hollow attainment if we fail our own families.

So cancer taught me to flip things around. Instead of thinking of my family supporting me to enhance my practice, I now think of my practice to enhance my family. It feels better this way.

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Cancer has helped me understand my clients better. You see, I am to them what my doctor was to me. I needed my doctor even when he knew I really didn't need him. I needed his gentle touch, his kind encouragement, his return call, his attention to only me. The smallest kindnesses from him meant so much to me and my family. His patience with my impatience was so appreciated. If he could do that for me, then why can't I do that for my clients? They are in a time of need and crisis just as I was, so let me try to give them what they need. Cancer reminded me of this, and, believe me, I needed the reminder.

Cancer strips you of your dignity. It took mine from me. I learned what it felt like to be down. I also learned that people react to those who are down in different ways. Take it from me, when your dignity is gone, it's a horrible feeling. Some people make it worse, some make it better. When I had no hair, some people would look at my bald head when they met me, while some people looked me in the eye. What a different feeling I felt about myself by the way people reacted to and treated me. It was a good lesson for me to learn – when someone is down and their dignity is lost its usually only temporary, so treat them with dignity nonetheless and look them right in the eye.

I *am* glad I had cancer because it has taught me so much. I believe I'm a better and stronger person because

of my ordeal. However, you know I don't wish cancer for anyone. I am only using it, and my experience with it, to say the struggle is worth it. We all have our own cancers; but as painful as they are, we can actually become stronger from them. As Jim Valvano, former basketball coach at North Carolina State, who several years ago lost his battle with cancer, said: "Never give up, never give up."

One final thing cancer taught me. It taught me to smile. I remember one time being in the hospital receiving a chemotherapy treatment, and I was very discouraged. I was completely bald, skin and bones, and always sick. I thought I had hit rock bottom and I was feeling very sorry for myself, and with good reason. Just then I saw a young girl, perhaps nine or ten years old, being wheeled past my room in a wheelchair. She, too, was skin and bones. She, too, had no hair. But she also had no legs. Moreover, she had something I didn't have. She had a smile on her face. I quickly decided I could smile too.

I'll never forget that little girl and her smile in spite of her circumstances. I never learned what happened to her, although I have my suspicions she was not as fortunate as was I. Cancer, or should I say, *her* cancer, taught me a lesson. The way I figure it, if she can no longer smile, then I'll smile for her.



# BARRISTERS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Christopher Marin



*Woman: What is your name, handsome knight?*

*Man: Sir Galahad the Chaste.*

*Woman: Mine is Zoot... just Zoot.*

*-from Monty Python and the Holy Grail*

In the spirit of Zoot, this month's president's message is announcements... just announcements.

The Barristers board met and decided that to make future events easier for our members' scheduling and availability; we will have future events on the second Wednesday of every month, unless otherwise indicated.

Also, in my September message, I brought up amending the bylaws. To that end, the board would like to form a committee to review the current bylaws and propose changes. Any Barristers member that is interested in serving on this committee should contact me or another member of the board, by our next Barristers meeting. The goal is to

have the proposed amendments published by January and voted on at the February general membership meeting.

In addition, we also have many open slots for scheduling future meetings. If you are interested in seeing a certain area covered or would be interested in speaking on a topic yourself, please contact me or any member of the Barristers board.

The next Barristers meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2015. This is actually the third Wednesday of the month, but the second Wednesday is Veteran's Day, so we decided to push it back a week. This month will be a Barristers social at the Riverside AMF bowling alley, which is located off the 91 Freeway at La Sierra. We will start around 5:30 p.m. and go until 8:00 p.m. or when our bowling arms tire out, whichever comes first. We are still in the process of finding a sponsor for the bowling event, which will provide a few pitchers of beverages and appetizers. We will keep you updated on that progress on our Facebook feed. Since this is a social, friends and family are welcome.

Finally, I would like to apologize for the error in last month's message regarding receiving MCLE credit for our last event. Unfortunately, the submission deadline for the President's Message came before we received final approval from the State Bar for the MCLE credit, so I had to make a guess as to whether the documentary screened would qualify for ethics credit (it did not). Still, thank you to everyone who did show up. Now to avoid the terrible peril that Sir Galahad faced with the threat of spanking (among other things) due to my error, I shall bid farewell until next month.

*Christopher Marin is a sole practitioner based in Riverside, and a member of the RCBA publications committee. He can be reached at [christopher@riversidecafamilylaw.com](mailto:christopher@riversidecafamilylaw.com).*



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# IELLA CLIENTS THANK IELLA AND IELLA THANKS YOU

*by Sylvia Quistorf*

Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, Inc. (IELLA) is a non-profit organization established in 1978 to provide free legal services and equal access to the law for disenfranchised residents of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The group of local founders of IELLA wanted to make legal services available for all those who could not afford to hire a private attorney. Our mission is to be a support system for our clients so that they too have an equal opportunity to secure justice in our legal system.

IELLA provides services to clients in a variety of different legal areas, including but not limited to: Divorce/Legal Separation/Annulments; Child Custody; Paternity; in Defense of Unlawful Detainers; Expungements/Proposition 47 Petitions; and through our Teen Parent program. Some of the areas where IELLA is most involved are those involving dissolution, child custody, child support and spousal support. Lonna and Raquel, two IELLA clients, were gracious enough to speak about their experiences with the organization.

*IELLA has helped me more than once, to which I am so grateful. I was and still am in the middle of a fierce custody battle with my ex-husband. He makes pretty decent money and can afford an attorney to help him. I am not so fortunate, but once I found IELLA my inability to afford an attorney no longer mattered. Every time I speak with an attorney I feel much better about my case and my situation doesn't seem so dire. Every attorney that I have consulted with has been very informative and supportive, relieving me of my fears. I don't know where my children and I would be without the services that IELLA provides; consultations and preparing legal papers for FREE! To anyone who will listen I always recommend IELLA. So many people are unable to afford legal assistance. I know they have been a godsend to me and my family.*

*- Lonna*

*In this letter, I want to thank the Riverside County Court Self-Help Center for referring me to the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association – Legal Aid. The attorneys and staff of IELLA were very helpful in giving me attention in my spousal support case. IELLA staff helped me fill out all the documents required by the court thereby assist-*

*ing me to bring my case to court. My ex-spouse did not want to pay me spousal support and kept insisting that he was not earning enough money. With the assistance of the IELLA staff, I was able to gather enough evidence to prove that my ex-spouse was lying. The judge ordered him to pay me spousal support. I was able to obtain all this help without cost and had the opportunity to be prepared for the court appearance. Mrs. Sylvia Quistorf of IELLA was very friendly and helpful in my interview where she explained the documents and prepared me for my court appearance. I would like to mention that IELLA is a helpful office for us who cannot afford a lawyer. Thank you for your services. Sincerely,*

*- Raquel*

IELLA is lucky enough to be able to assist people in need of our services, like Lonna and Raquel. In the spirit of giving thanks, IELLA also wishes to thank all of the volunteers who make running our organization possible, both attorneys and non-attorneys alike. IELLA's vehicle for providing legal services is our Legal Aid Clinic. The Legal Aid Clinic takes place at various locations throughout the Inland Empire, including Colton, Riverside, Corona, Ontario, and San Bernardino. It is at these clinics where IELLA's volunteer and staff attorneys have one-on-one meetings with clients to learn about the legal and factual issues in their cases and develop strategies to assist them moving forward. The attorneys take notes, help determine the proper course of action, and provide IELLA staff with a directive for preparing legal documents on behalf of the client. Volunteer and staff attorneys further review all prepared documentation before it is provided to the client for service and filing. The time that these volunteers dedicate to the organization allows IELLA to run smoothly and help hundreds of clients each year.

Lastly, IELLA wants to thank all of our generous funders. Without their financial support, IELLA staff and volunteers would not be able to operate IELLA and provide crucial services, including client intake, event organization, community outreach and client counseling. One of the most valuable services provided by IELLA staff is the counsel they are able to provide IELLA clients before their day in court. Properly filing documents in court and appearing before a judge can be a daunting task.



# I GOT AN IDEA: CAN I DEDUCT THAT?

by Kelly Allen

Each and every year I'm approached with ingenious notions from taxpayers and their advisors alike. They are thrilled to share their "brilliant ideas." Ideas spanning from the heavenly realms to those of mortal and earthly duties: avoiding taxes.

What makes mankind so amazing is our ability to think. We craft the world around us into tangible evidence: An outward manifestation of our inner thoughts. I would argue (and testified on occasion) that the intangible is worth much more than the tangible under certain circumstances. It is no surprise or accident that our Constitution and laws protect the value of our ideas, thoughts and expressions ("Intangible Property" or "IP").

What then shall we say to our client who brings to us their own version of Tax IP? "Hey, Kelly, I've got an idea. Can I deduct that?" All too often we may dismiss our client as coming up with another "crazy idea.") If Congress recognizes the inherent value of our ideas would it really be all that improbable that those ideas, creating value for the greater good, could generate a tax deduction for us? To the contrary, Congress expressly sanctions tax benefits in connection with the contribution of IP. Be forewarned: Where there is congressional grace there is also taxpayer abuse. The statutory provisions have been carefully crafted and must be followed closely.

While the rules vary slightly, the general rule is that the deduction received by the taxpayer is limited to the lesser of the fair-market-value or basis (e.g. generally cost). See 26 USC 170 (e)(1)(B)(iii). At first blush, this restriction may seem to strip the taxpayer of any substantial tax benefits. In

reality, this restriction applies to most other forms of charitable contributions and is therefore not of unique concern. IP does carry a distinct advantage. A qualified IP contribution may yield subsequent deductions above and beyond the initial deduction over a twelve year period.

So why contribute IP? We live in an age where ideas and IP are unlimited. What is limited, however, is the capital and human resources to develop those ideas and bring them to market—especially in a competing and dynamically changing business enterprise. Additionally, restrictive tax rules exist prohibiting taxpayers from taking deductions on certain self-created IP thus deferring any immediate tax benefit. Contributing the IP via a qualified charitable contribution "closes" the transaction making certain the taxpayer's disposal of the asset freeing up at least some deductions. Without some form of overt abandonment, the taxpayer may not receive the tax benefits; and even still might be challenged by the IRS as to the legitimacy of their deduction (which is still limited to their cost)! On a final note, a taxpayer may not only enjoy future deductions but they may very well be delighted in seeing a respectable non-for-profit bring their IP to a greater good.

Whatever your clients do, however, I would urge them to contribute using the best mechanism possible: From the bottom of their heart. So, until next time, I got an idea. Maybe you should consider deducting it.

*Kelly Allen is a CPA with Kelly Allen & Associates in Temecula.*



*(continued from previous page)*

IELLA staff meets and confers with clients to discuss the content of the documents IELLA prepares on their behalf. At these meetings, IELLA staff thoroughly explains the procedure for court filings and explains what the client should expect when they appear in front of the judge. This service is critical to clients, considering most of them are unfamiliar with the court system. In some circumstances, IELLA also provides court representation for clients.

On **December 10, 2015**, IELLA will host a fundraising gala to commemorate the 35 years of service the organization and its volunteers have provided to the community. The event at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino will consist of a social hour, dinner and a program with a variety of wonderful speakers. In an effort

to raise the critical funds IELLA relies on to provide its free services, there will also be an auction. Please contact IELLA regarding tickets for this event at our offices at (951) 369-3009 or by email at [info@iellaaid.org](mailto:info@iellaaid.org). IELLA is always looking for additional volunteers to grow our community and expand our organization. So, we welcome any lawyers or non-lawyers in the community who would like to give back. Again, thank you!

*Sylvia Quistorf is the senior paralegal and office manager for Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association.*



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# GRATITUDE AND PRO BONO WORK

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*by Chad Morgan*

As lawyers, we often have the opportunity to help our clients with unique problems. But in many situations, happy and satisfied clients are not always grateful for having had the opportunity to work with us. Few people jump into the legal system willingly.

As a newly minted lawyer, I jumped in and represented many clients in different practice areas through the Orange County Public Law Center (“PLC”), one of the few centers that encourages direct representation as much as clinical assistance. My work with PLC was particularly rewarding in large part because my clients were so grateful for the assistance they received. Their cases might have been relatively easy, but they were important to the clients, who in many cases, had been waiting for help for more than a year.

Mr. Tran is a standout example. In 2006, he was an immigrant living the American Dream, but by 2008 it was falling apart. He was laid off and his wife left him with two kids. Without income, he could not afford his mortgage, which now exceeded the value of his house. He eventually sold his house through a short sale—or so he thought.

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In 2013, he was sued by a title insurance company. It turns out that the real estate agent recorded fraudulent reconveyances to fake the short sale. Then she took off with the bank’s money. The title insurance company blamed Mr. Tran.

Without representation, Mr. Tran tried to convince the title company that he was innocent. They didn’t listen and pressed on, proceeding with what looked to be an easy judgment. Over a year later, PLC placed Mr. Tran’s case with me. Without too much difficulty, I convinced the title company that they should focus on the real estate agent and dismiss Mr. Tran.

While this was an easy problem to solve, I don’t think I’ve ever worked with anyone who was more grateful for the assistance I provided than Mr. Tran. Without diminishing the gratefulness shown by my paying clients, the pro bono clients I’ve represented have generally been the most grateful. I think it’s because paying clients have choices and expectations. They pay us good money to make things better and reasonably (sometimes unreasonably) expect results. However, most pro bono clients face intimidating and serious legal problems but generally have no expectations.

As a new lawyer, I used pro bono work to narrow my practice area. I’m still relatively new and no longer need pro bono work to narrow my focus. However, a few pro bono cases a year is a reminder that helping people solve problems they can’t handle on their own is one of the reasons why most of us chose this profession. Genuine gratitude from clients who had no other options is nice too.

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*Chad Morgan is a sole practitioner in Corona with an emphasis in public law.*



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# MAKING WISHES COME TRUE

*by Kelly Moran*

Just five short blocks away from the Riverside County Bar Association is a building that houses what fairytales are made of: hopes, dreams, a little bit of magic, and a stockpile of toys. From its home right here in Riverside, the Orange County and Inland Empire chapter of national wish-granting organization, Make-A-Wish®, grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. It is in the mission of this amazing organization to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy. This mission can only be accomplished through the help of community support.

A wish experience can be a game-changer for a child with a life-threatening medical condition. Just look to 15-year-old Vicky Venegas and you can see the impact that a wish experience has made. Vicky has overcome many obstacles since being diagnosed with an autoimmune disease in May of 2013. “Everything was different when I was diagnosed, I couldn’t go out, we were stuck inside or away from people to avoid getting sick,” said Vicky.

Battling through chemotherapy and forced to isolate herself from the outside world, Vicky turned to music as a source of joy in her daily life. As such, it came as no surprise to her family when Vicky wished to pursue her dreams of becoming a singer. Thanks to the help of Los Rios Rock School out of San Juan Capistrano, Make-A-Wish® was able to help Vicky’s dream become a reality. Partnering with four other teen musicians, Vicky formed a band that rehearsed multiple times over the course of a few months all in preparation for Vicky’s musical debut: a live concert at the Anaheim House of Blues.

On the day of her wish, Vicky took the stage in front of an audience of nearly 800 cheering concertgoers. Overflowing with excitement, Vicky swayed to the beat as she and her band sang “House of the Rising Sun” by The Animals and “Love Don’t Die” by The Fray. Following the performance, Vicky described her wish as making her feel like a true rock star. “This wish has been a blessing and huge impact on my life. It’s something that I will definitely remember and cherish forever.”

While Vicky’s wish allowed her the opportunity to live out her dream for a day, now 19-year-old Jorge Garcia’s wish gave him the ability to pursue his dreams for a lifetime. Jorge was selected as a wish kid in 2013 after being diagnosed with leukemia. Jorge took his wish seriously, spending two years weighing his wish options. Though he considered many possible wishes (partying with rapper

Wiz Khalifa or skydiving were among the top ideas), Jorge ultimately made his final decision earlier this year when he wished to become the first member of his family to go to college. Thanks to the generous sponsors and the help of all associated with Make-A-Wish®, Jorge got his wish and has started classes at Norco College this fall.

Jorge’s wish for financial aid for college has given him a lot to look forward to. “I feel like this could really change my life in a big way,” Jorge said. “If I can get an education I can get a good job. I don’t think I would have the motivation to go to college without this opportunity.”

Not only has his wish given him the opportunity to continue his education, but thanks to the dedication of those involved, Jorge will be mentored by staff members at Norco College to help him explore every possible interest that he may have. Always an optimist, Jorge views this as his chance to leave his illness behind and start working toward the successful career that he has always wanted.

Just as wishes come in all shapes and sizes, so too do the opportunities to be involved in making dreams come true. Make-A-Wish® offers volunteers the ability to make a difference on their own time. From Wish Granters to office assistants to event-day helpers, Make-A-Wish® has positions that can fit into even the busiest of lifestyles. No matter how you give your time at Make-A-Wish®, the rewards are endless.

Currently, Make-A-Wish® has a great need for assistance in the Inland Empire. With 335 wishes granted last year alone, that is still less than half of the medically-eligible children living in Orange, Riverside or San Bernardino counties who qualify for a wish. Your help is needed to grow this organization to give all children and their families a memory to look back on.

Wishes impact the lives of everyone involved – wish kids, wish families, volunteers, donors, sponsors, medical professionals and communities. If you’re interested in becoming a part of the Make-A-Wish® family, please contact [getinvolved@wishocie.org](mailto:getinvolved@wishocie.org), call 714-573-9474, or find additional information online at <http://ocie.wish.org/>.

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# CAN WE BE THANKFUL FOR GEOGRAPHY?

by Dwight Kealy

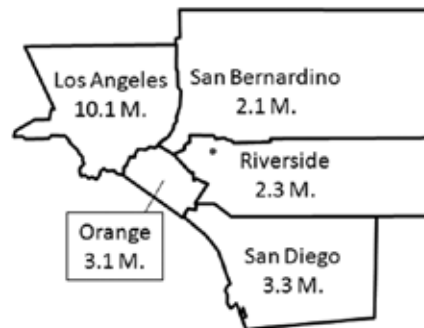
I am a newer attorney who learned through the RCBA's Bridging the Gap and last year's inaugural New Attorney Academy, that one of the great things about the Riverside County legal community is that it can still feel like a small town. Attorneys get to know each other. I have found this to be true as I have enjoyed running into familiar faces in courthouses throughout the county.

Another great aspect of Riverside County is that we are not a small town. I realized this while driving to Oregon last summer and seeing all of the small counties in our state. There are 58 counties in the state, each with a courthouse to support the local population. You may dream of being an attorney in a small town, but how many judges, attorneys, and staff does Alpine County need to support its population of 1,116 people? (You read that correctly: 1,116 people reside in the county). A total of 36 counties in California, from San Luis Obispo (279,083) and Santa Cruz (271,804) to Modoc (9,023) and Sierra (3,003) have fewer people than the City of Riverside (316,619).

What are the largest counties by population in the state? Los Angeles is the largest with 10.1 million people. San Diego comes in second with 3.3 million. Rounding out the top five are 3) Orange County (3.1 million), 4) Riverside (2.3 million), and 5) San Bernardino (2.1 million). Santa Clara comes in sixth with 1.9 million.

Looking at the map shows us a reason to be thankful that we practice in Riverside County. Riverside and its bordering counties account for four of the five most populous counties in the state. Even though San Bernardino County blocks Riverside from sharing a border with Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County courthouse in Pomona is just 26 miles away from the historic courthouse in downtown Riverside. We may feel like a small town legal community, but we have the activity one would expect from the county in the middle of the five most populous counties in the most populous state in the country.

But part of being thankful for our geography is wondering how to give back to others who may not be



enjoying the benefits of our geography. For example, when I took the July 2012 CA Bar exam, there were 445 people who passed the exam that summer who lived in San Francisco. San Francisco had a population of 812,000. That means one person passed that bar exam for every 1,824 people who lived in San Francisco that summer. If you went to a concert or sporting event in the bay area in the summer of 2012, you were probably

joined by a number of people who passed that summer's bar exam.

In contrast, there were only a total of 30 people who listed the local cities of Moreno Valley, San Bernardino, Murrieta, Fontana, and Riverside as their residence on the July 2012 bar exam application. These cities have a combined population of over 1 million people. These communities have people who need legal assistance, but our local legal aid offices do not have the luxury of drawing from a crowd of local law students or recent graduates able to volunteer. You can blame geography: San Francisco has more law schools and law students.

I am thankful for Riverside County's legal community. We have a cooperative, small town feel in the center of the most populous counties in the country. However, we are also a community lacking law students and new attorneys available to help volunteer in our local legal clinics. Local legal aid offices like, Riverside Legal Aid, need your help. As you enjoy the benefits of our community, please vol-

unteer and give financially to help provide legal services to those who do not benefit from our geography. (PSLC, DBA Riverside Legal Aid, is a nonprofit corporation categorized as a 501(c) 3 organization by the IRS. You can donate online at [www.RiversideLegalAid.org](http://www.RiversideLegalAid.org)).

*Mr. Kealy studied archaeology in the Middle East, served as an Arabic/Spanish Linguist and Intelligence Officer in the United States Marine Corps, and spent a decade in the commercial insurance business. He is co-chair of the solo/small practice section of the RCBA and a member of the RCBA's publication committee. He can be reached at [info@dwrightkealy.com](mailto:info@dwrightkealy.com).*

City	Passers	Population	# People Per Passer
Moreno Valley	3	193,400	64,466.67
San Bernardino	4	210,000	52,500.00
Murrieta	2	103,000	51,500.00
Fontana	4	196,000	49,000.00
Riverside	17	310,000	18,235.29
Long Beach	33	462,000	14,000.00
Temecula	8	102,000	12,750.00
Washington	62	617,000	9,951.61
San Jose	99	967,000	9,767.68
Los Angeles	523	3,819,000	7,302.10
Oakland	67	390,000	5,820.90
Sacramento	133	472,000	3,548.87
San Diego	383	1,326,000	3,462.14
Pasadena	44	138,000	3,136.36
Irvine	85	212,000	2,494.12
San Francisco	445	812,000	1,824.72
Berkeley	74	113,000	1,527.03
Santa Monica	65	90,000	1,384.62
Palo Alto	54	65,000	1,203.70
Davis	71	66,000	929.58



# FOR WHAT I AM THANKFUL

*Compiled by Bruce E. Todd*

The *Mayflower* set sail from Plymouth, England in September of 1620 with 102 passengers and crew. The treacherous trip across the mighty Atlantic Ocean lasted 66 days. The ship finally reached the New World where the Pilgrims, as they became called, eventually established a village which they named Plymouth.

In November of 1621, the Pilgrims shared their initial corn harvest with members of the Wampanoag tribe of Native Americans. This celebratory meal became known as the first “Thanksgiving.”

With another Thanksgiving now approaching us, we reached out to some of the prominent members of our local legal community to ask them about their thoughts for things which they are thankful. Here are their responses.

## **David Moore of Reid & Hellyer**

There are many things to be thankful for in life, and some are just a matter of fate or luck. I am thankful that my wife, my children, grandchildren, and I all enjoy good health, which I deem to be the most important thing. It allows us to participate in sports, travel, education, work, and other activities that make life worthwhile. Also I have a life partner in my wife, Barbara, who has striven daily for the past 53 years to keep me presentable enough to go out in public.

## **L. Alexandra Fong of the Office of County Counsel**

I am thankful for my family and friends, their support, and our collective health.

## **The Honorable Michael Donner**

Quite frankly—everything! These are just a few . . . Being a father; being able to serve as a bench officer in a community (Riverside) that provided so many blessings to my family and me; my health; being able to live in a country where freedom, the rule of law, and the right to a jury trial is valued; and for the friends in my life. Since I’ve been on the bench, I’ve had the opportunity to participate in jury selection in more than two hundred trials. In each of those instances, I express to the potential jurors some of the many constitutional privileges we enjoy (with the stated purpose of trying to change the mind of those that are trying to get out of jury service). As a result, I’m also reminding myself each and every time how thankful I am

that I and those that are important to me were born in the United States of America.

## **The Honorable Gloria Trask**

Gratitude is the foundation of happiness and I believe I’m happy because I am grateful for the blessings provided by the good and loving people in my life. Since I am writing for a professional publication, both space and the interest of my audience suggest that I limit my discussion to those blessings in my professional life.

I started my judicial career in Riverside more than a few years ago as a Juvenile Court Referee and every day since have been thankful to be a part of this community’s legal profession.

When I was appointed a commissioner and assigned a civil calendar, the bench officers (not just civil) offered their assistance and guidance. They would recess a hearing to answer my questions. I believe the bench continues the practice of mentoring our new colleagues to this day.

Our court employees, including the Sheriff’s Deputies and security officers, have been ideal coworkers. In all these years, I have never heard one complain “It is not my job” and try to pass a problem onto another. Attorneys from all over the state routinely thank and compliment our courtroom staff for their competency and courtesy.

The close working relationship the RCBA has with the bench is an example of the exceptional quality of our Bar. Our Riverside attorneys show a genuine spirit of friendship with one another. They are generous to the community through countless programs donating money, time and talent.

When I walk into our Historic Court House, I am humbled by my good fortune. I am a part of the legal profession in a community that built and then preserved a beautiful and inspiring monument to the rule of law and the protection of individual liberty.

I wonder at the many blessings of God, and thank Him.

*Judge Trask also submitted the following prayer*

### PRAYER

O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a home,  
help me to remember those who have no home at all;

When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer;  
And remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency;  
Bestir my compassion,  
and be concerned enough to help;  
By word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted.

Amen.

## Terry Bridges

I am thankful for:

My father

My sister

Sharon's love

The friendship of Rich and Rob

Every hug I have ever received

A daybreak run in a German forest with my son

My granddaughter's laugh

A million steps of joy in the Sierra

The last 1,000 meters of a 5k race

The phrase "Thank you"

The words "I love you"

The *New York Times* editorial page

NPR

## The Honorable Joan Burgess

*"Reflect upon your present blessings — of which every man has many — not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some."*

— Charles Dickens

Gratitude is the single most important ingredient of living a successful and fulfilling life, yet is often overlooked. I have so many people and things in my life for which I am grateful. To name a few: (1) my daughters Lindsay and Krissy, and husband Buck who always make me smile; (2) my sweet little dog Bella who truly shows the meaning of unconditional love; (3) a job that is challenging and rewarding each day and, occasionally, allows me to make a difference in someone's life; (4) having the means to travel and see the wonders of the world; (5) and, all my wonderful friends and coworkers who show me each day that the world is full of kind and caring people. This world would be a better place if everyone would take a few minutes to reflect on those things in their life that they are grateful for. Then, pay it forward with a random act of kindness to show gratitude to the people you love, the people who challenge you, the people who work with you, the people who serve you, and the people who are complete strangers.



# GIVING THANKS TO THE MISSION INN'S FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

A Southern California tradition now celebrating its 23rd year is the Mission Inn's Festival of Lights.

"The Mission Inn's Festival of Lights brings together families from all over Southern California for a wonderful holiday experience," said Chief Operating Officer Kelly Roberts. "Duane and I are pleased that this accolade is helping people from around the United States get a glimpse of an amazing event that Riversiders have been enjoying for years."

The Mission Inn is decorated with 400 animatronic characters; there are appearances by Santa Claus, the world's largest manmade mistletoe measuring 12' x 8', elf tuck-ins, horse-drawn carriage rides, fresh snow, an elaborately decorated Christmas tree in the hotel's lobby and delectable holiday confections at the original famous Casey's Cupcakes located at the Mission Inn.

The City of Riverside has adopted the Mission Inn's Festival of Lights as a citywide initiative with a vision of a Dickensian holiday spectacle featuring lights and decorations throughout downtown Riverside, an outdoor ice-skating rink on the Main Street pedestrian mall, holiday vendors and family-friendly entertainment.

Each year, the Mission Inn's Festival of Lights begins with the Switch On Ceremony—a spectacular event in which the castle-like hotel is instantly illuminated with more than 4 million holiday lights followed by a full fireworks display. This year's switch on ceremony will take place on Friday, November 27, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. This is a tradition that many families in the Inland Empire enjoy each year to begin their holiday season.

*Photo by Michael J. Elderman.*



# THE REAL FIRST THANKSGIVING

by Abram S. Feuerstein

In the 56 short stories and four novels written by Arthur Conan Doyle featuring the Sherlock Holmes character, the great detective never declared: “Elementary, my dear Watson.” Shakespeare’s Hamlet uttered the words, “Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio,” instead of the erroneous “I knew him well.” And scholars continue to debate whether Cinderella’s glass slippers resulted from a mistranslation of the old French words, *pantoufle de vair*, fur slipper, for *pantoufle de verre*, glass slipper.

Similarly, in advance of reading Nathaniel Philbrick’s *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War*,<sup>1</sup> you know instinctively that the grade school narrative about the Pilgrims and their encounters with the Wampanoag Indians (or Pokanokets) is unlikely to survive intact. And it doesn’t. Here is a partial icon-busting list. There is no evidence that the Pilgrims stepped foot on a prominent rock in Plymouth Harbor upon their arrival from Cape Cod, their first landing point. The celebratory meal hosted by the Pilgrims after they had survived, barely, their first year in New England took place over the course of several days in late September or early October 1621, and not in late November. Squanto, the person we understood to be the trusted translator and Pilgrim-Indian go-between, apparently was plotting to consolidate power—with Squanto emerging as New England’s pre-eminent Native leader. The very term “Thanksgiving” is a 19th century one, not a 17th century one, and it certainly does not relate to a day of spiritual devotion celebrated by the Pilgrims, clasping each other’s hands in prayer, with some Native guests in attendance. And Miles Standish, supposedly a towering military figure, turns out to have been five feet tall and nicknamed, “Captain Shrimp.”

But Philbrick—a National Book Award winner for his *In the Heart of the Sea*—does not remove all of the buckles from the Pilgrim’s shoes. (Alas, the buckles too are a myth.)<sup>3</sup> They may not have had “Stovetop” dressing

and pumpkin pies, but it does appear that the Pilgrims actually served turkeys. The feast probably resembled a traditional English, Middle Ages harvest festival. Almost 100 Pokanokets (or twice the total number of Pilgrims), arrived and contributed five freshly slaughtered deer to the celebration. The Pilgrims served the deer with their newly harvested crop of corn, squash, beans, barley and peas. Relying heavily on William Bradford’s *Of Plymouth Plantation*, which Philbrick justifiably calls the “greatest book written in seventeenth-century America,”<sup>4</sup> Philbrick notes that the Pilgrims possessed a “good store of wild turkeys” (Bradford’s phrase), and likely served the turkeys with the ducks and geese they had hunted and which typically migrated to Plymouth Harbor at that time of year.<sup>5</sup> But Philbrick adds a caveat—if turkeys were on the menu, they would have been eaten with knives and fingers; forks did not appear at Plymouth until the late 1600s.<sup>6</sup>

But the real story of Thanksgiving—and the narrative told by Philbrick—is not the 1621 gathering, but the journey of the Pilgrims in getting to that point; the subsequent half-century development of the colony during a period of co-existence with Native populations; and, finally, the near forgotten outbreak and fighting in 1676 throughout New England of what is commonly known as King Philip’s war, the most brutal war ever fought on American soil (inclusive of the Civil War).

## Who Were the Pilgrims?

The Pilgrims’ journey did not begin as a trans-Atlantic crossing, but as a much shorter trip to Holland. As pious English separatists, they were under the constant threat of imprisonment (or worse) in their own country for refusing to accept the established Church as a true church of Christ. Many in the Congregation departed secretly for Holland. Although Holland welcomed all kinds of religious dissenters, upon settling in the large commercial center of Leiden, the Pilgrims—who in England largely had been farmers and artisans—were constrained to take low level

1 *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War* (Viking 2006) (“*Mayflower*”). Unless otherwise noted, all facts described in this article are derived from *Mayflower*.

2 In an epilogue, Philbrick recounts that in 1891, the body of Standish was exhumed by a group of his descendants. Surprisingly, the skeleton measured five feet seven inches, an average 17th Century male height. However, a medical doctor present advised the crowd that a crushed skeleton in the ground generally is much longer than the living person. Concludes Philbrick: “Like all the Pilgrims, Standish was taller in death than he had ever been in life.” *Mayflower*, p. 355.

3 Valerie Strauss, “5 Myths About Thanksgiving,” *The Washington*

*Post*, November 23, 2011, at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/5-myths-about-thanksgiving/2011/11/22/g1QA3UffmN\\_blog.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/5-myths-about-thanksgiving/2011/11/22/g1QA3UffmN_blog.html).

4 *Mayflower*, p. 7.

5 *Mayflower*, pp. 117-118. Philbrick observes that the wild turkeys were larger than the domesticated turkeys with which the Pilgrims back in Europe would have been familiar. The domesticated turkeys initially had been imported to Spain from Mexico in the sixteenth century, and by the mid-1500s had become a fixture at English Christmases. *Id.*, at 118.

6 *Mayflower*, p. 118.



jobs because of their limited skills and language barriers. The long work hours were troubling, but as Philbrick notes watching their children lose touch with their English ancestry troubled the Pilgrims more. Unable to practice their faith in England, they searched for and eventually found investors to back their efforts to establish a new colony in North America.

Leaving from Plymouth, England, on the *Mayflower*, the 102 passengers (104 if you count two dogs)<sup>7</sup> had a miserable 65-day passage. They were down to their last supplies; scurvy appeared. Although a child, named Oceanus, was born at sea, two passengers died. Finally, in November 1620 they spotted land—Cape Cod (known at the time as Cape James). But they had a problem. They had been given authorization to begin a colony in Northern Virginia, and their land grant was hundreds of miles away. Also, a majority of the men on the *Mayflower* were not Pilgrims, but “Strangers,” and they had a growing reluctance to be part of a colony of religious radicals. Confronted by the prospect of not having enough hands to do the colony’s work, for the sake of their physical and economic survival the passengers entered into the Mayflower Compact, an agreement to form a “civil body politic” for the “general good of the colony.”<sup>8</sup> Although Philbrick notes that “there is a temptation to make more out of the Mayflower Compact than there actually was,”<sup>9</sup> the Mayflower Compact is quite rightly seen today as both an effort at self-governing, and a declaration of the right to do so.

## Expecting the Unexpected

The largest concern that faced the Pilgrims related to not knowing what to expect in their future relationship with the native population. What they encountered in the coastal areas, however, was what Philbrick describes as a “haunted vacancy.”<sup>10</sup> The once densely populated area had been decimated in the years 1616-1619 by a plague, likely introduced to the area by European fisherman, which left up to 90 percent of the region’s inhabitants dead. Massasoit, the region’s most powerful sachem and leader of the Pokanokets, at one point had commanded up to 3,000 warriors; by the time the Pilgrims arrived, he barely had a force of a few hundred men. Taken together with the seasonal settlement patterns of the Native Americans to move inland during winter, the Pilgrims probably encountered few Indians as they explored and remained near the coast.

The first winter was brutal by English standards, but unusually mild by New England ones. By the time it ended, half of the original *Mayflower* passengers had died.

7 The dogs were a spaniel and a mastiff. *Mayflower*, p.3.

8 For the full text of the Mayflower Compact, see [http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org/mayflower\\_compact\\_text.htm](http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org/mayflower_compact_text.htm). It is also reproduced in *Mayflower*, p. 41.

9 *Mayflower*, p. 41.

10 *Mayflower*, p. 48.

Knowing that they were being watched by the Natives, the Pilgrims propped up their sick and dying and posed them with muskets to give the outward appearance that they were capable of defending themselves if attacked. Philbrick relates that something extraordinary then happened. A very tall and a very stark naked Indian walked into the Pilgrim’s settlement of haphazardly built structures and greeted them with the words, “Welcome Englishmen.” He told them his name, Samoset, and explained how he had learned English from fishermen around Maine. Samoset told them about the Natives and their leader, Massasoit. He also told them about another individual, Squanto (short for Tisquantum), who spoke even better English than Samoset.

Enter Squanto, who was to play a central role in the survival of the Plymouth colony. Abducted by an English ship captain in 1614, Squanto had been sold into slavery in Spain, released, found his way to England and Newfoundland, and upon returning to America and after a few additional twists and turns ended up with Massasoit. As the only individual fluent in both English and Massachusetts, the Pokanoket language, he heavily influenced Massasoit’s actions. Plotting his own power gambit, Squanto told Massasoit not to attack the English, persuading the sachem that the English possessed what Philbrick calls “the seventeenth-century equivalent of a weapon of mass destruction: the plague.”<sup>11</sup> He warned Massasoit that the English kept the plague in barrels buried under one of their buildings and that they could unleash the weapon at will against their enemies. Whether because of Squanto’s claims or the result of Massasoit’s own desire to ally himself with the Pilgrims in order to strengthen his position against his neighboring enemies, the Naragansetts, Massasoit and the Pilgrims established diplomatic relationships and worked out a six point agreement to further their mutual interests. By the fall harvest, it was appropriate that they celebrated together.

## The Peaceful Co-Existence Disintegrates

The peaceful, bi-cultural co-existence between the Indians and the English was not trouble-free, but their mutual dependency lasted for more than 50 years. In a relatively short period of time, the Plymouth Colony would be overshadowed by the Massachusetts Bay Colony founded a decade later. Economic motivations replaced religious ones among subsequent Plymouth generations and newer arrivals to New England. For the Indians, with the depletion of the beaver population and the decline of the fur trade, they were forced to sell their agricultural land to the English. With time, the land purchases deprived the Indians of the ability to support their needs.

By the late 1660s, Massasoit’s son Philip had settled into his role as the leader of the Pokanokets. There had been iso-

11 *Mayflower*, p. 96.

lated outbreaks of violence. Clearly, some of these resulted from the expansion of the colonies and growing injustices against the Indians. Knowing that the Pokanokets could not match the English in numbers, Philip formed alliances with other tribes. As a result of what Philbrick sees as a crisis of leadership on both sides, the isolated outbreaks could not be contained, and violence spread rapidly. By 1675, total war had broken out throughout New England. Known as King Philip's war, over the course of 14 months, a third to one-half of the hundred towns in New England were burned and abandoned. The 5,000 deaths (three quarters of whom were Native Americans) represented twice the losses as a percentage of population than had been killed in the American Civil War. And at least 1,000 Indians were put on slave ships heading for the West Indies. Philbrick does not lose the opportunity of contrasting the *Mayflower* voyage to America with the voyage of the *Seaflower*, one of the slave ships. He writes: "Like the *Mayflower*, she carried a human cargo. But instead of 102 potential colonists, the *Seaflower* was bound for the Caribbean with 180 Native American slaves."<sup>12</sup>

In *Mayflower*, Philbrick tries to make some sense of this brutality. Readers will have to judge whether his efforts are as successful as the quality of his powerful re-telling of the Pilgrim's story and his adventure narrative. For Philbrick, any hope that arises out of King Philip's War is to be found in the little known person of Benjamin Church. Just as William Bradford dominates the first part of the book, Church dominates the second. He defies authority, organizes a small group of English and Indian fighters, adopts the war tactics of the Natives, and single-handedly appears to win the war. Philbrick portrays Church as the original Indian fighter, a frontiersman, whose image can be seen in Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Natty Bumppo, and even Rambo. Decades after the war, in 1716, Church wrote about his own exploits in *Entertaining Passages Relating to Philip's War*. According to Philbrick, the self-promotion appears largely to have been accurate. In Church, Philbrick locates what he believes is the kernel for the archetypal American; "part Pilgrim, part Mariner, part Indian, and altogether his own."<sup>13</sup> He observes: "What makes his story so special, I believe, is that he shows us how the nightmare of wilderness warfare might one day give rise to a society that promises liberty and justice for all."<sup>14</sup>

## A Personal Epilogue

For many years, I had not given any thought to what we tried to do when, at college, we attempted to steal a piece of Plymouth Rock. After all, it took place almost 35 years ago; the group did not remain in contact after college; and we

<sup>12</sup> *Mayflower*, p. xiv.

<sup>13</sup> *Mayflower*, p. 357.

<sup>14</sup> *Mayflower*, p. 358.

had failed. Miserably. But reading *Mayflower* unlocked the memory of what took place, and so here it is.

We had learned from our American history professor that at one point in Vassar College's past, a parent of one of the alumni had taken part of the rock and donated it to the College. Our professor told us it was "right in front" of the New England Building, an outdated turn of the century science building that had been converted to lecture halls. I was the only one in the group that owned a car, a 1971 or 1972 Chevrolet Caprice Classic. One night our group of 6 to 7 guys gathered in front of the building at the only boulder that was near the building's doorway. I parked my car. To the extent there was a plan, we were going to lift the boulder and put it in the trunk of the car. That was it. We had a vague thought that we would send the administration a letter with various demands, and sign the letter by calling ourselves something like the "Sons of Liberty," or the "Founding Fathers," I forget which. But the details do not really matter because we were unable to budge the giant boulder much less lift it into the car.

Shortly later we talked to the professor and took him into our confidence. He explained that we were a "gang that could not shoot straight." The piece of Plymouth Rock donated to the College was not boulder-sized, but was a small piece that had been embedded above the New England Building's doorway as an architectural feature, surrounded by a thin metal rim.<sup>15</sup> In thinking back about the story, other than attending a College that had no "Greek life" and which was located in a lackluster upstate New York town, I have difficulty wondering what our motives might have been. I can only speculate that we had a small desire to possess a tangible part of the Pilgrim's story, to make the grade school narrative come alive, and to become a little closer to these real people who centuries earlier made difficult choices in facing an unknown future. In the end, Philbrick's *Mayflower* accomplishes these goals without the need for physical exertion or the Caprice Classic.

*Abram Feuerstein is employed by the United States Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Trustee in the United States Trustee Program (USTP). The mission of the USTP is to protect the integrity of the nation's bankruptcy system and laws. The views expressed in the article belong solely to the author, and do not represent in any way the views of the United States Trustee, the USTP, or the United States Department of Justice.*



<sup>15</sup> See generally, <http://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu/buildings-grounds/buildings/new-england-building.html>.

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# ADOPT A MARINE FOR THANKSGIVING: A TRADITION IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

by Betty Fracisco

What could be more depressing than spending a traditional American holiday like Thanksgiving in a desolate desert setting, away from family and friends, with no alternative but to eat in a mess hall? That thought concerned a group of citizens in the Coachella Valley, prompting them to partner with American Friends Of Our Armed Forces (AFAF) to host the Annual Adopt-A-Marine for Thanksgiving event, which began nine years ago.

Today, the event is hosted by nine or ten country clubs in the Coachella Valley, of whom Rancho La Quinta Country Club entertains by far the largest group. Last year, Rancho La Quinta, a gate guarded community in La Quinta, hosted one hundred Marines, who were able to spend the day with forty host families.

On Thanksgiving, a core group of community volunteers leave Rancho La Quinta at 7:00 a.m. and travel by bus to 29 Palms, arriving there at 8:30 a.m. to see Marines lined up waiting. After assigning each Marine to a host family, the buses head to Rancho La Quinta, arriving at 11:00 a.m. The Homeowners Association funds the cost of the buses (\$1,400 each) through donations. Upon arrival, the buses traverse a winding road decorated with American flags and head for the Tennis Center, where the Marines will meet their host families.

Once at the Tennis Center, there is a welcome ceremony with brief speeches and live music. Then the families meet their Marines and the fun begins. The majority of the Marines are single, 18 to 20 years of age, have completed basic and infantry training, and are at 29 Palms for advanced training, such as radio training. Most of them are away from home for the first time in their lives. Each host family entertains two or three Marines, which becomes a great opportunity to get to know young men from other parts of our country. Last year, I had the pleasure of spending the day with young men from Ohio, Tennessee, and Colorado and learned so much about those areas.

The Country Club at Rancho La Quinta, which manages their golf course, clubhouse, and athletic facilities, has stepped up to the plate for this event year after year. The driving range at the golf course is open for driving and putting contests, and other games and contests are also set up for tennis and bocce ball. Swimming is avail-

able at both club pools and those of individual hosts. Many Marines take advantage of the opportunity to drive their hosts' golf carts around the property or watch the day's football games. My family played some fun card and word games as we sat on the covered patio, a world away from their barracks. Host families are encouraged to offer their phones for the Marines to call home.

Of course, the highlight of Thanksgiving is always the delicious dinner. Most of the host families are entertaining their own families, so the Marine are well-fed with home-cooked favorites. Some families choose to celebrate

*Marines arriving at Rancho La Quinta for Thanksgiving before they are dispersed to their host families.*



the holiday with dinner at the Country Club. In this case, the Country Club hosts all Marines having dinner with their host families. The Club also overlooks its strict dress code in the case of the Marines, who generally dress casually on this day.

This year's 9th annual Adopt-A-Marine event promises to be even better than last year. The organizers at Rancho La Quinta are presenting a "challenge coin" to each Marine. The coins, which have the Rancho La Quinta logo on one side and the Marine insignia on the other side, are meant to serve as a memento of a great Thanksgiving. In many cases, this program has been the beginning of a friendship that has lasted through the years, with some families keeping in touch with their Marines, even attending their weddings. Without a doubt, the worst part of the day is returning the Marines to the Country Club for the ride home after that last piece of pie. Entertaining these young men and women has been a wonderful experience; I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to share a day with these individuals who are giving so much to our country.

*Betty Fracisco is an attorney with Garrett & Jensen in Riverside, who specializes in amusement industry litigation. She is on the Board of Governors of California Women Lawyers, is a Past President of Orange County Women Lawyers and served as Executive Director of California Portable Ride Operators for many years. She is an active member of many amusement industry organizations, for whom she has served on numerous legal panels.*



## MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have applied for membership in the Riverside County Bar Association. If there are no objections, they will become members effective November 30, 2015.

**Alexandra B. Andreen** (S) – Best Best & Krieger LLP, Riverside

**Goushia Farook** – Law Offices of Shauna M. Albright, Riverside

**Nicole A. Johnson** (S) – Law Student, Banning

**Andrea M. Martinez** – Law Offices of Rebekah Ryan Main, Rancho Cucamonga

(S) Designates Law Student Member



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### Cloud Based Bookkeeping – IOLTA365

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### Complete Resource Center – Marathon-records.com

Marathon-records.com is a complete resource center for the solo and small firm lawyer. IOLTA One is an online bookkeeping application designed specifically for IOLTA accounts that reduces the task of keeping compliant records to a simple data entry function. IOLTA One prevents the most common IOLTA account errors and automatically produces a chronological account register, individual client ledgers, and a three-way reconciliation report in compliance with the rules of professional conduct and ALTA best practices. Visit online at [www.marathon-records.com](http://www.marathon-records.com) and sign up for a free trial.

### Conference Rooms Available

Conference rooms, small offices and the third floor meeting room at the RCBA building are available for rent on a half-day or full-day basis. Please call for pricing information, and reserve rooms in advance, by contacting Charlene or Lisa at the RCBA office, (951) 682-1015 or [rcba@riversidecountybar.com](mailto:rcba@riversidecountybar.com).



# BARBARA A. KEOUGH IS HONORED WITH THE SAINT THOMAS MORE AWARD AT THE 25TH ANNUAL RED MASS

*by Jacqueline Carey-Wilson and the Honorable Diane Anderson*

*Giving thanks for Barbara's extraordinary service and devotion to church, community, and justice.*

Judges, lawyers, and public officials of many faiths and their families participated in the 25th Annual Red Mass, which was held on October 6, 2015, at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in San Bernardino. The Red Mass is celebrated each year to invoke God's blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. The mass is held in October to coincide with the opening of the annual term of the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

During the opening procession of the mass, Mark Strain carried a banner depicting the Holy Spirit, the Scales of Justice, and the Ten Commandments, symbolizing the impartiality of justice and how all must work toward the fair and equal administration of the law, without corruption, avarice, prejudice, or favor. Mary Jo Carlos processed into the church with a vase of 18 red roses in memory of those members of the Inland Empire legal community who had passed away in the last year and three additional red roses for Linda Maynes, Helen Rodriguez, and Louise Biddle, members of the Red Mass Steering Committee who had passed away in previous years.

The chief celebrant was the Most Reverend Gerald Barnes, the Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino. The homilist was Reverend Rafael Partida. Rabbi Hillel Cohn read a passage from the Old Testament, President Franklin Adams representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints read a passage from the New Testament, and Michelle



*Commissioner Diane Anderson and Barbara Keough*

Lauren offered the Prayers of the Faithful, which included remembrances of individuals in the Inland Empire legal community who had passed away during the last year. Barbara Keough led the music and Lisa Padilla was the cantor for the mass.

During the homily, Fr. Partida reflected on the origins of the Red Mass, which began in France in 1245. The Red Mass began as a way for lawyers and judges to pray for God's wisdom in their work. Fr. Partida advised those in attendance that "We must strive for peace and love within our being and to embrace in heart and mind the spirit that dwells within each one of us; and that the gift of justice has been implanted in us." Fr. Partida reminded us to "Humbly welcome

the word and to treat each person standing in front of you with respect and dignity. When we do this, they will begin to treat others that way." Fr. Partida closed with the following prayer to those assembled, "May justice always be in your heart."

At the reception immediately following the mass, Commissioner Diane Anderson presented Barbara A. Keough with the Saint Thomas More Award. The Saint Thomas More Award is presented each year to an attorney or a judge whose conduct in his or her profession is an extension of his or her faith, who has filled the lives of the faithful with hope by being a legal advocate for those in need, who has shown kindness and generosity of spirit, and who is overall an exemplary human being. When speaking about Saint Thomas More, Pope John Paul II stated that "this English statesman placed



*Back row: Brian Keough  
Middle row: Angela Keough, Barbara Keough,  
Noah Keough, Austin Keough, Vicky Keough,  
and Joe Shoopman  
Bottom row: Michelle Keough (wheelchair)*



*21 Red Roses in memory of members of the legal community who have passed away--may they never be forgotten.*



*Commissioner Diane Anderson presenting the Saint Thomas More Award to Barbara Keough*



*Bishop Barnes blessing Barbara Keough*



*Saint Thomas More Award*



*Bishop Barnes, Barbara Keough and Rabbi Hillel Cohn*

his own public activity at the service of the person, especially if that person was weak or poor; he dealt with social controversies with a superb sense of fairness; he was vigorously committed to favoring and defending the family . . .”

Barbara grew up in an Italian family. She was born in Niagara Falls, New York. Barbara’s father, James J. Alaimo, was an electrical engineer with North American Rockwell and her mother, Anne G. Alaimo, was a bridal gown consultant. Her parents instilled in Barbara a deep sense of honor, respect, honesty, and integrity. Barbara has two siblings, an older brother, Jim Alaimo, who manages a large printing operation in Florida, and a younger sister, Carol Johnson, who is a grocery store supervisor in Washington.

Barbara’s family moved to California when she was two and they settled in Garden Grove, where she attended elementary, junior high, high school, and college. Barbara learned how to read music at the age of seven and taught herself how to play the guitar and piano.

Barbara was married in Long Beach and began her family there. In 1983, her family moved to Redlands and she has resided in San Bernardino County since that time. Barbara began her legal career as a secretary in Santa Ana and then in Long Beach. She studied and became a paralegal upon moving to the Inland Empire. Barbara is a member of the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community in Redlands and has served as the music director for her church for many

years. Barbara plays the piano and guitar and previously led the adult, teen, children, traditional, and contemporary choirs in the church. Barbara also has served the Diocesan music community in presenting cantor workshops and other programs. She is involved in the planning committee for the annual Diocesan Musician’s Day, which is an event that welcomes 300 to 500 participants each year for an eight-hour workshop. In 2012, Bishop Barnes appointed Barbara to serve on the Diocesan Pastoral Liturgical Commission.

Barbara decided to enter law school while working full time and raising two small children, Angela and Brian. She attended Citrus Belt Law School, now known as California Southern School of Law. Barbara started law school with two children, which can be challenging enough, and graduated with three! Barbara’s youngest child, Michelle, was born in her second year of law school. It became apparent within a few months into Michelle’s young life, that she was a special needs child, born with a rare syndrome, Angelman Syndrome. Barbara lovingly and diligently took Michelle to therapy three mornings a week, then worked eight-hours a day and attended law school three nights a week. Barbara studied after school ended in the evening, so weekends could be spent with her family. However, the pressures of law school and the new child were overwhelming, and by the fourth year of law school, Barbara was left alone to raise three small children.



*Wilfrid (Bill) Lemann and Barbara Keough*



*Mitchell Norton, Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, and Kevin Dorse*



*Judge Gloria Trask and Riverside County District Attorney Michael Hestrin*

Barbara's commitment to work for justice on behalf of those in need is exemplary. While in Barbara was in her fourth year of law school, attorney (now Judge) John Pacheco introduced her to the clinics operated by the Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino and Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association. Under Judge Pacheco's supervision and while she was still in law school, Barbara obtained her first experience counseling clients. Barbara has been an attorney since 1990 and is currently a partner in the Ontario Office of Cota & Cole, LLP practicing in General Litigation, Municipal Law and Employment Litigation.

As an attorney, Barbara continues to counsel those in need. Barbara understands that the clients at the clinic are the weakest and most vulnerable members of our community. Barbara has been on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society for nearly 15 years and currently serves as the secretary of the board.

About 10 years ago, a friend asked if Barbara would be interested in helping out with Habitat for Humanity. She had no idea about the organization at that time, but quickly learned. Habitat for Humanity builds new homes and rehabilitates existing homes for qualified low-income families. The homes are built by a team of workers, including members of the local community, churches, and other organizations. The family is given a 20-year interest-free mortgage. The mortgage payments are designed to fit within the family's specific financial means. In addition, Habitat for Humanity helps to teach the family how to care for the home and how to become financially independent. The family is required to work at least 500 "sweat equity" hours, including hours spent building/rehabilitating the homes of other prospective families. Barbara has been on the board of directors for the San Bernardino area Habitat for Humanity, since 2005 and served as the president of its board from 2007 to 2009.

Barbara has been a member of the Italian Catholic Federation, Branch 217, since 2007 and currently serves as its recording secretary. Branch 217 has been in existence since the 1970's and serves its local community by raising

funds and doing charitable works for the underprivileged. For the past three years, Branch 217 has been collecting packages of dried pasta and jars of pasta sauce and donating their collections to the Boys and Girls Club of Redlands and to A.J.'s Kitchen, both non-profit charities make spaghetti dinners to feed the hungry in Redlands.

Barbara sits on the board of directors for the San Bernardino County Bar Association and has served in that capacity for nine years. She was installed as secretary/treasurer of the board in October.

Barbara is the recipient of the 2014 Citizen Achievement Award from the League of Women Voters of San Bernardino. In announcing the award, the League of Women Voters President Gloria Anderson remarked, "A crusader for Habitat for Humanity, Barbara is a local attorney who has volunteered her time on the nonprofit's board of directors, serving as both secretary and president. She is the number one seller of table sponsors for the Habitat's annual gala and donates her time to her church as well. Barbara is an inspirational person and an outstanding citizen."

Barbara's lifelong service to church and community exemplifies the ideals embodied by Saint Thomas More. She lives her faith daily, is kind and generous of heart, and works tirelessly for those in need. Accordingly, the Red Mass Steering Committee was honored to present Barbara A. Keough with the 2015 Saint Thomas More Award and for her extraordinary service and devotion to church, community, and justice.

*Jacqueline Carey-Wilson is a deputy county counsel with San Bernardino County, co-chair of the Red Mass Steering Committee, and past president of the Riverside County Bar Association and the Inland Empire Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.*

*The Honorable Diane Anderson is a commissioner in the Superior Court of California, San Bernardino County and a board member for the San Bernardino County Bar Association.*

*Photos courtesy of Jacqueline Carey-Wilson*



*Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, Judge John Pacheco, and Mary Jo Carlos*



*Judge Bryan Foster, Barbara Keough, and Michael Scaffidi*



*Joseph Widman, David Werner, and Mark McGuire*



*Judge John Pacheco, Olivia de la Torre and Judge Wilfred J. Schneider, Jr.*



*President Franklin Adams, Deputy District Attorney Michelle Lauron, and Deacon F. Michael Jelley*





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# OPPOSING COUNSEL: JOHN MARCUS

by Don Cripe

Probably the biggest benefit I derive from being a part of the Riverside County Bar Association Publication Committee is this column. The men and women I meet, whom I might otherwise not have, are fascinating. On this occasion, I am pleased to inform you about John Marcus.

For those of you who missed him while he was practicing law, you can only see John now two Fridays a month in Riverside and one Friday a month in Indio for Family Court mediation. John has been a part of those programs from their inception and has been a valuable member of the panel. John says that while he is fascinated by the parties involved in Family Court mediation, his enjoyment from the program comes mostly from the camaraderie he enjoys with the other mediators. He has been impressed with the quality of those individuals and, even at the age of almost 86, says that he learns a lot from them.

To say that John has had an interesting life is an overwhelming understatement. John's father (E.G. born in Beirut, Lebanon) was a doctor at what was then called the Loma Linda College of Medical Evangelists. Because of his father's position, John spent the first 13 years of his life in Africa. He lived on the edge of the Kalahari Desert in what was then called Bechuanaland (now Botswana). John says it was a great place for a kid to grow up though he is not sure the same is so for the adults. For his first seven years of school, John was home tutored by an English lady who lived nearby. Thereafter, he started early, and matriculated to Helderberg College. At 11 years old, John's family moved to Johannesburg where John's dad was the superintendent of the Nakapila Hospital, a Seventh Day Adventist hospital in Johannesburg. John's family experience, particularly his father, is the subject of the book entitled "*Fighting Africa's Black Magic.*"

By that time, World War II was moving rapidly southward in Africa; Rommel's forces were approaching. So in March 1943, John's family boarded an Argentinian ship (a neutral country) and headed for Argentina where John spent his 13th birthday in Buenos Aires. About two weeks later, John's family boarded a Pan Am DC 3 airplane and headed for North America. Because the planes could not fly at night, the Marcus family hopped from Buenos Aires to Rio de Janeiro; to Cuba and then Miami. After that four-day flight, they boarded a train for a five-day trip to Los Angeles.



John Marcus

John and his family lived in the Glendale area until his father's death.

John attended undergraduate at Walla Walla where he was a premed student. Though he had been accepted for medical school at Loma Linda, and in spite of his father's wishes, John applied to the UCLA College of Law from which he graduated with the fourth graduating class from UCLA College of Law in 1955. Around the time he graduated, John went to work in 1955 first as a clerk then as a lawyer at the Hawthorne City Attorney's Office.

Having already been accepted to medical school, John enrolled at Loma Linda. After completing the first year, John decided that he preferred the law over medicine and returned to the practice of law accepting the position as general counsel for the General Insurance Company of America. While with General Insurance, John tried many civil cases earning his stripes with ABOTA. At the time, John was the youngest attorney ever to be admitted to ABOTA.

In 1961, John moved to San Bernardino where he was hired by Julius Novak. Mr. Novak was the City Attorney for Needles, California. John had become a pilot so Mr. Novak purchased a plane they used to commute between San Bernardino and Needles.

In 1964, upon the death of Mr. Novak, John went into private practice where he remained for the entirety of his legal career with his offices in the City of San Bernardino. John specialized in personal injury law until approximately 1975 when he educated himself about family law, eventually becoming an expert. Sometime in the first decade of this century, John became fed up with what he perceived to be government corruption in San Bernardino and relocated his office to Riverside where it remained until he ceased practicing law around the time he became a mediator with the Riverside courts. John is on the civil mediation panel and provides mediation services for the family courts.

Always dapper in appearance, you will find John at the Riverside Family Courthouse on the first and third Fridays of every month. If you're there, why not stop by and introduce yourselves? If you do, you will find a kind, pleasant and knowledgeable colleague—one you will be proud to have met.

*Don Cripe is an Arbitrator, Mediator and co-founder of California Arbitration & Mediation Services (C.A.M.S.)*



# JUDICIAL PROFILE: THE HONORABLE CHAD FIRETAG

by Stefanie G. Field

For many of you our newest judge is a familiar face – Judge Chad Firetag. He is the Past-President of the Riverside County Bar Association and has been a participant in the Leo A. Deegan Inns of Court. He is fairly well known and very well respected both for his intelligence and his demeanor.

Judge Firetag is also a long-time member of our community. In fact, he is a Riverside native and has been involved in our legal community since the age of 15. (Yes, 15.) How so? At Arlington High School, he participated in Mock Trial, where he was fortunate to be coached by Steve Harmon and win the National competition.

The experience was life-changing for him. Not only did it spark an interest in the law, but he also met his future bride (Tori) through the program and gained a life-long mentor and friend in Steve. In fact, he credits his success to Tori and the inspiration that she and their three sons give to him.

While Mock Trial may have sparked his interest in the law, he did not leave the experience knowing that he wanted to become a lawyer. Instead, he studied at University of California, Riverside, while working in UCR's plumbing department. The experience taught him that plumbing was not the job for him!

Fate then gave him a bit of a nudge. Steve Harmon, his former coach and mentor, lost a secretary and needed some help during the summer while searching for a replacement. Judge Firetag filled in and stayed on as a general helper, acting as intern, clerk and runner. Perhaps sensing Judge Firetag's potential, Steve let him work on cases and meet with clients. Judge Firetag was intrigued. He found he enjoyed working directly with individuals and helping people who had made mistakes. Therein, the decision to become an attorney was solidified.

Judge Firetag attended University of California, Davis for law school, but upon graduation, he did not immediately return to his Riverside roots. Instead, he took a position with Rutan & Tucker, where he worked primarily with institutional or business clients, rather than individuals. While he very much appreciated the people with whom he worked, the work itself was not satisfying. He wanted to return to Riverside and practice in the criminal defense field.



Judge Chad Firetag

He called upon Steve for some advice and Steve put him in touch with Paul Grech, with whom he worked for the next decade, handling all types of criminal cases, from DUIs to death penalty matters. Steve, who had become the Public Defender, then lured him to the Public Defender's Office, where he had a relatively short tenure before becoming appointed.

Why become a judge? Throughout his career, Judge Firetag developed an ability to honestly assess his cases. Doing so helped him best represent the interests of his clients. As part of his case analysis, he started to think about how a judge would

rule on various issues. He realized that he would like to be in the position of impartial neutral, looking at both sides and attempting to act in a manner that would be fair and right. His experiences as a Pro Tem only reinforced that opinion. Once his friend Chris Harmon was appointed to the bench, Judge Harmon began discussing the intellectual satisfaction that could be found and urging Judge Firetag to apply. The rest, shall we say, is history.

While he has only been on the bench a short time, Judge Firetag is enjoying the experience. He is assigned to the Family Court, a new area of law with a steep learning curve and a very busy calendar. Although he had been informed about how intense and emotional the parties could be, he had not realized quite how intense the emotions would get. Often children are involved and the parents have lost all ability to communicate with each other, which only worsens an already difficult situation. Consequently, he endeavors to remain a calming presence.

Going into the family law assignment has been a challenge, but Judge Firetag has been glad for the experience. The family law practitioners have been welcoming and open and he has been highly impressed with the quality of representation that they provide.

In sum, Judge Firetag's intelligence, demeanor, and fortitude make him a welcome addition to our bench.

*Stefanie G. Field, a member of the Bar Publications Committee is a Senior Counsel with the law firm of Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden.*



# GIVING THANKS TO THE RCBA ELVES - SEASON XIV

Ho, ho, ho, it's that time of year again!

Since Christmas 2002 your RCBA Elves Program has helped provide Christmas with all the trimmings to local families in need. This will be our 14th opportunity as local legal professionals to show that we care about and do give back to the community that supports us. Once again, we have four Elf opportunities for you, your family, your staff, and your colleagues to share your time, talents, and interests to help these local families in need. Now the only question is which Elf category do you want to fill this season? (You can choose more than one!)

**Shopping Elves: Monday, December 14, 2015 at 6 p.m.** is our designated shopping day and time. All RCBA "Shopping Elves" will meet at the Big Kmart at 375 East Alessandro Blvd in Riverside's Orange Crest Shopping center. As a Shopping Elf, you will receive a Christmas "wish list" from your adopted family(ies). Your job is simple—shop and fill your basket with as many gifts as possible within the dollar amount given to you at the start of the evening. This is a real opportunity to test or show off your "value" shopping skills. Many of our Shopping Elves have made this a family affair using its younger members to assist in selecting the "cool" gifts for the kids while learning about the value of charity and the joy of giving to the less fortunate. Some schools have recognized this event as a way for students to earn public service credits. Besides, isn't it more fun to shop with O.P.M. (Other People's Money)? Whatever the motivation, a good time is had by all.

**Wrapping Elves:** After the Shopping Elves finish their job, Wrapping Elves swing into action. This year the Wrapping Elves have two opportunities (**December 16 & 17 starting at 4 p.m.**) to meet in the RCBA boardroom and wrap all the gifts purchased. Wrapping Elves must ensure that all the gifts are tagged and assembled by family for easy pick up and distribution by the Delivery Elves. Experience has shown that the Holiday music, food and camaraderie of wrapping gifts together will help even the biggest Grinch shake off the "Bah Humbug" blues and get them into the holiday spirit. Excellent wrapping and organizational skills are welcomed, *but not required*.

**Delivery Elves:** If you need a way to kick-start the warm holiday glow inside and out or just want to feel like Santa on Christmas Eve, this is it! Depending on the total number of families adopted, teams of two to four Delivery Elves are needed to personally deliver the wrapped gifts to each of our families. The deliveries will be made between the 18th and the 24th of December. We

have designed this part of the program to accommodate your personal schedules.

Over the years, many members have expressed that delivering gifts to the families was by far one of the most heart warming Elf experiences. It is also a good opportunity to teach your young ones the rewarding feeling of helping those less fortunate than themselves. When signing up, please inform us if you are willing to drive and the type of vehicle you have, so we can match the number and size of gifts to the storage area available in your vehicle.

**Money Elves:** The Money Elves provide the means necessary for the other Elves to shop, wrap, and deliver to the families we adopt. **You can really help us by sending in your donation early** since it allows us to determine our budget for the families we help. The majority of funds need to be received by the Bar no later than December 15 for the gift purchases from Big Kmart. Donations received by December 18 will fund the purchase of gift cards from Stater Brothers so the families can buy food for a nice holiday dinner. Remember, the more money raised, means a greater number of families we can assist. Please note, even if you are a procrastinator, we will accept money after December 23. Monies received this late will be applied to any last minute "add on" families, or will be saved to get us ahead on donations for next year.

The RCBA now has a 501(c)(3) Foundation so all donations for this project are tax deductible. Please make your checks payable to the RCBA and write "*The Elves Program*" in the memo section of the check. The RCBA Foundation Tax ID# is 47-4971260. We thank you in advance for your holiday generosity.

To become a Shopping, Wrapping, Delivery or Money Elf, please phone your pledge to the RCBA at (951) 682-1015 or email your name and desired Elf designation(s) to one of the following: Charlene Nelson (charlene@riversidecountybar.com), Lisa Yang (lisa@riversidecountybar.com), Brian Percy (bpercy@bpearcy.com) or Veronica Reynoso (vreynoso@bpearcy.com). By contacting us via email you will assist us with the ability to update each of you via email in a timely manner.

To those who have participated in the past, "Thank you" and to those who join us for the first time this year, we look forward to meeting you. Don't forget to tell a friend!

